

**Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting
Expanded Agenda
September 12, 1997**

Category III Evaluation and Selection Process

The schedule for evaluating and selecting proposals has been delayed because of the large number of proposals received (332). Sorting proposals, forming review panels, and identifying the panel members has taken several weeks longer than expected. Therefore we expect to complete the Integration Panel and Technical Review Panel process by early October, bring a recommended funding package to the Roundtable at their October meeting (which will need to be scheduled latter in October) and to BDAC and CALFED Policy Group in November.

In forming the Integration Panel, we tried to achieve a close balance between agency and nonagency members as requested. Although a small nonprofit was not identified to participate in the Integration Panel we have included small nonprofits on the technical review panels. The Integration Panel has met 3 times and is scheduled to meet again on September 19, 1997 at which time they will complete the prioritization process. The panel is in the process of setting priorities for stressors and habitats for each of the priority species. Proposal review and selection will begin the last week of September. The Integration Panel does not have a chair. Staff discussed the idea of a Roundtable member as a chairperson but decided against it due the difficulty in agreeing on only one member to attend the panel meetings and finding a member with the technical background and appropriate skills to serve as chair. The Integration Panel also did not want to select a chair person from within it membership because the panel was working well without a chair.

Thirteen Technical Review Panels were formed for scoring and evaluating the proposals. Each panel has between 11 and 31 proposals to review and score. The proposals were mailed on September 5, 1997 and the panels are expected to meet the week of September 15th. We had a difficult time trying to achieve a balance of agency and nonagency members on the technical panels. This is primarily due to the stricter legal requirements concerning conflict of interest and contract law for nonagency members than agency members.

Restoration Coordination Update

Staff have met in August and will meet again in September with other related funding programs to begin the task of addressing coordination of the programs at multiple levels. Staff will provide a summary of those efforts at the Roundtable meeting.

Staff have been working closely with CVPIA staff to increase coordination between the programs for this funding cycle. CALFED staff and CVPIA staff will discuss the coordination efforts, and CVPIA staff will provide background information on the CVPIA programs most closely related to the Category III program. The SWRCB recently released their RFP for Proposition 204 Delta Tributaries program. SWRCB staff have been asked to attend the Roundtable meeting to provide a brief update.

State and Federal agencies have drafted a cost share agreement regarding the existing funding in Proposition 204 and the proposed federal funds for ecosystem restoration. A copy of the draft agreement is included in your packet. Staff will provide a brief update on the draft which is expected be finalized latter in September.